

**B. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 24, with the following paragraph:

The state of an object can change to "conditional" pursuant to the following scenario. The client can send a message to a merchant, e.g., merchant A, indicating that the client desires to buy item 1A1,[[.]] 511, from that merchant if merchant B will cancel item 1B1, 521, with merchant B. The state of item 1A1 at merchant A changes from "available" to "conditional" as a copy of the object 2511 with the conditional state is sent to the client 550. In the message from the client to merchant A, the client has included the necessary information identifying the merchant, the item from the merchant, and the buyer. Merchant A sends a message to the identified merchant, e.g., merchant B, identifying the item and the buyer and requesting a cancellation of that transaction. Merchant B changes the state of the object at merchant B from bought to canceled and sends a message to the buyer that deletes the copy of the object from the buyer's shopping cart. When merchant B completes the processing of the cancellation, merchant B will change the state of its object 521 for that item from canceled to available. Merchant B will then send a message to merchant A indicating that the transaction has been canceled. Merchant A changes the state of the object of its item 511 from conditional to either bought or hold, depending upon the desires of the buyer as indicated in the first message between the buyer and merchant A.